

# Develop Israel with Israel Bonds

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 19, 1954

# THE JERUSALEM POST

PRICE: 100 PRUTA  
VOL. XXX, No. 8044

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## Marginal Column By EBY LAQUEUR

WHEN M. Mendes-France was told on his return from Washington some time ago that his Government was in danger and the parliamentary situation had, he solemnly admonished his followers not to worry: My dear France, he said, the worst that can possibly happen is the overthrow of our Government, and this will occur anyway some day. Seen in this perspective, the present acute crisis (the vote of confidence on Indo-China on Monday morning, and the debate on the Paris and London agreements also due to start tomorrow) indeed seems less important than it would appear on a first glance. The worst that can happen to France is the fall of the Government, and a new coalition headed by M. Antoine Pinay (the only effective right-wing alternative) with an excellent possibility of a Mendes-France return after some time.

BUT this is far from being certain, and the chances of M. Mendes-France apparently have improved somewhat as the result of the latest Soviet move. Moscow may be basically correct in its attitude towards the politicians and political parties in the West which reveal a pronounced suicidal urge in their insistence on the fulfillment of all the parochial "national demands" however small and unimportant, even if it will be their own doom. But one of the basic rules of politics is of course that contempt, however justified, must not be shown too openly, and the Soviet threat to annul the Franco-Soviet treaty of 1944 may, therefore, have quite unexpected effects. The practical importance of the 1944 treaty is nil, but this was not the issue at stake. After all, Moscow probably argued, France is the weakest link in the Western alliance and there are some fearsome people in France who will take this empty threat as a dire foretaste of worse things to follow. But this kind of argument is not likely to convince the Communists and neo-Communists on which the Russians have to rely in the struggle against the Paris and London agreements. Some have already expressed their irritation over the latest Soviet move, including such staunch opponents of the treaties as Messrs. G. Paléologue and Monod who regard this as a betrayal of the Soviet Union. "We have a similar treaty with Britain dating back to 1942. Why had Moscow not threatened the British, with similar results before the Parliament in London ratified the agreements? Obviously, because they think that such a move would not have been taken seriously in London, and that with France a harsher language can and should be used." "Le Monde" wrote yesterday: "Why do the Russians treat us as if we were insufficiently docile satellites?" — and "Le Monde" has been the most influential mouthpiece of a sophisticated neutralism in France hitherto. Which shows that the Soviet move miscalculating the state of affairs in the West, did at least partly misfire.

M. MENDES-FRANCE, if he wished, could receive a substantial majority (something like 300 to 200) for a conditional ratification of the Paris and London treaties. According to this plan the pact would come into force automatically after three or six months if there should be no change in Soviet policy in the meantime. The Prime Minister opposes this suggestion made by Messrs. Gaudin and Gaudin, because it would enormously complicate matters with Washington and London. If opposition to the original proposals should be too formidable, it is not excluded that these proposals may become his last-minute refuge. All in all, there is a danger of exaggerating the importance of the events due to happen in Paris during the next few days. If Mendes-France is overthrown, he will be replaced by a rightist cabinet, headed probably by M. Pinay and Baulieu, whose foreign political orientation is well known. If the treaties are ratified, it will be yet a far cry to complete agreement with the Soviet Union and other problems bedeviling Western unity. It is merely one more bridge, and chances are that it will be crossed.

Jerusalem, December 18.

## Big-3 Agree on Arms, Money to S. Vietnam

PARIS, Saturday (Reuter). — The Foreign Ministers of the Big Three—Western powers agreed today that heavy economic and military aid must be given South Vietnam. This aid was necessary if the anti-Communist forces were to stand a chance next year of winning elections for a central government for the whole of Indo-China under the armistice agreement.

## Dulles, Eden Confer On Middle East

PARIS, Saturday (Reuter). — Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Anthony Eden, and Mr. Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, spent three hours with their advisers here on Thursday night discussing the defence of the Middle East and the prospects for reducing Arab-Israeli tensions.

Mr. Evelyn Shuckburgh, head of the British Foreign Office's Middle East Department, attended the talks. He gave the American Secretary some of the first-hand impressions he had gained in his recent tour of the M.E. No statement was issued after the talks and officials declined comment on Thursday's announcement by the Syrian Prime Minister, Fares el Khoury, of the establishment of an Arab League mutual defence pact. Fuller information about the proposed organization of the grouping is awaited here. Diplomatic observers believe the Western powers would welcome the decision of the Arab League states to consolidate their alliance, provided it does not exclude the possibility of some eventual association with the Western defence system for the containment of Communism and does not exacerbate Arab-Israeli hostility.

**Pessimistic Report**  
Mr. Shuckburgh's report on his tour and the conference of British ambassadors in the M.E. has provided little hope of Arab acceptance of Israel as a neighbour state, it is understood. However, it is believed to commend favourably the proposed reduction of clashes on the Arab-Israeli frontiers.

Both the British and U.S. governments are known to believe that there is little hope of bringing real stability to the Middle East so long as the "little cold war" persists there.

## Mendes Asks Confidence Vote on Indo-China Budget

PARIS, Saturday (Reuter). — Premier Pierre Mendes-France decided early today to stake the fate of his Government on a vote of confidence after the National Assembly's rejection of his Indo-China budget last night. The Government immediately decided to put forward a new version of the budget.

The vote will be taken on Monday morning, possibly delaying for some hours the opening of the Assembly's crucial debate on ratification of the Paris agreements rearm West Germany by the Russian threat to renounce the Franco-Soviet treaty.

The French Prime Minister said tonight in a radio address that the French Parliament would seek a meeting of the Security Council next week to resume consideration of the Israel complaint against Egyptian restrictions on Suez Canal shipping.

The Council has before it the Israel complaint arising from Egypt's seizure of the merchant ship Bat Galim in the Gulf of Suez on September 23. Egypt's readiness to release the crew and cargo of the Israeli ship, but not the vessel itself, was announced recently.

**47 'Brothers' Face Trial Today**  
CAIRO, Saturday (Reuter). — Forty-seven members of the Moslem Brotherhood, the largest group tried so far, will appear before the People's Tribunal here tomorrow. Cairo Radio reported tonight. The group was said to include several police officers.

Police early today arrested 18 members of the dissolved Moslem Brotherhood who were alleged to have taken a secret oath to carry on the organization's "message" after the hanging of six of its leaders.

Four Egyptians—two lawyers, a government official and a journalist—have been arrested on charges of having engaged in Communist activities, police headquarters said today.

They denounced recent verdicts by the People's Tribunal against members of the Moslem Brotherhood.

**24 KILLED IN N.Y. AIR DISASTER**  
NEW YORK, Saturday. — Twenty-four persons were killed when an Italian Airlines DC-68 plane carrying 28 passengers and crewmen split in two over Idlewild airport today as it groped through heavy fog and rain. It plunged into the shallow waters of Jamaica Bay. (Reuter)

## 'Working with West Accepted'—Naccache

The Lebanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Alfred Naccache, said in Beirut yesterday that the recent decision of the Arab League Council on Middle East defence specifically provides for cooperation with the Western powers on the setting up of a defence scheme in the Middle East. According to the broadcast, Mr. Naccache also stated that the Arab states had agreed to furnish the Western powers with military bases in the event of an attack on the region.

## Britain Cautious On Expected Arab Bid

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM.  
LONDON, Saturday. — Whitehall appears to be adopting a wait and see attitude towards the expected Arab proposals for a Middle Eastern security pact loosely linked to Britain and the U.S.

Today's arrival of the Jordanian King, King Abdallah, provides a cautious appraisal of the subject in an editorial in "The Times," whose cordial tone does not disguise a certain caution.

While the public is being prepared for a revision of the Anglo-Israeli treaty, bringing it into line with the arrangements recently made with Egypt, there is apparently some confidence that Jordan at least will content herself with demanding that her subsidy should be increased to the level of the R.A.F. This, however, implies that at any future moment the Jordanian Government might decide to leave these heavy to someone else — the Arab League for example.

Whitehall would clearly prefer the present arrangement to continue, but is resigned to demand its abrogation. This applies even more to Iraq, where the only question now is how Britain can be turned into one party among many in the Arab League.

The Iraqi Government has clearly learned from Egypt's experience and is determined to skip the stage of threats.

At the very moment when Washington reports speak of the impending shipment of American material to equip two Iraqi divisions, the British Foreign Minister forebodes a bilateral agreement with Britain modelled on the Anglo-Egyptian pact, but including Persia as well as Turkey.

Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Robert Murphy, the Deputy Assistant-Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Mr. John D. Jerrold, and the Israeli Minister, Mr. Reuven Shiloah.

## Israel Seeking U.N. Meeting on Bat Galim

UNITED NATIONS, Saturday (UP). — The Israeli delegation disclosed yesterday that it would seek a meeting of the Security Council next week to resume consideration of the Israel complaint against Egyptian restrictions on Suez Canal shipping.

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## Saved Fishermen Tell of Three Days Adrift

HAIFA, Saturday. — Smiling, and apparently elated by the cheering crowds which had gathered at the quayside at Haifa Port to welcome them, the two fishermen who had been missing at sea since Tuesday evening stepped off a naval launch at noon yesterday into a waiting ambulance which took them to Government Hospital here.

Moshe Nadir, 24, and Yitzhak Arif, after 68 hours without food or water, were in remarkably good spirits and not much the worse for their experience. Following two full days of almost continuous search by Air Force planes, naval patrol vessels and police fishing boats, the half-submerged hull on which the two men had been drifting was spotted by a plane about 1.20 yesterday morning 30 miles off the Ashdod coast. The men were picked up about two hours later by a naval launch, which had been despatched to the scene at call from the planes.

Reuter reports that five Royal Air Force planes based on Cyprus had taken part in the search. At 1.30 on Tuesday afternoon the two fishermen left Haifa. Port aboard the hull of a sardine fishing company fishing boat which was being towed by a vessel of the Marine Company to Tel Aviv-Jaffa Port. At about 6.30 that evening, at a point not far from the coast between Benjamina and Zikhron Yaakov, the boat was overtaken by a motor-driven water pump which later failed to work, the men had provisions for several days, but these were swept overboard almost immediately. The hull developed a small leak, began taking water, and remained afloat, submerged, forcing the men to sit on its bow.

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## Latin Americans 'Zionist Spy' Claims Foiling Arson Tries

UNITED NATIONS, Saturday. — The Latin American caucus, which speaks for 20 Latin American republics, has arranged to meet the Egyptian delegation Monday to appeal to Egypt not to allow political considerations to sway justice in the trial of the 13 Jews now being tried for arson in the "Zionist spy case."

Despite the fact that everyone was busy packing and planning to depart immediately after the closing of the ninth session of the General Assembly yesterday, the Latin American group got together after being approached by Dr. Moshe Tuv, head of the Latin American desk in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, with the request that they look into the trial.

Dr. Jose Vicente Trujillo, permanent representative of Ecuador at the U.N. and president of the caucus, put the question before the assembled delegates on the ground that this is a humanitarian problem, not a political one.

**'Universal Concern'**  
Prof. Enrique Rodriguez Fabrega, head of the Uruguayan delegation, then pointed out that the matter of universal concern and asked the group to express to Egypt its feelings on the matter.

In this spirit, the group unanimously adopted the suggestion and instructed Dr. Trujillo to see the Egyptian delegation immediately.

**RUNS OVER MINE**  
A truck belonging to the Suez Canal Company ran over a mine at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon near Eilat, according to an official statement. The vehicle was damaged but there were no casualties.

## UN General Assembly Ends 9th Session

NEW YORK, Saturday. — The ninth session of the U.N. General Assembly ended last night, one day ahead of schedule. The Assembly President, Dr. Zeev Van Kliefden of the Netherlands, said that the session of 12 weeks and three days was marked by the unanimous decision to resume in private the London talks on disarmament, and the Assembly's endorsement of President Eisenhower's "atoms for peace" plan.

The last report given on behalf of the Assembly's Committee on Disarmament, which was presented by Mr. Arthur Liveran, of Israel, reported for the Committee's member who was elected to the post unanimously at the beginning of the session.

A Soviet complaint alleging that the U.S. was responsible for acts of aggression against China was rejected by the Assembly during the final meeting of the session. The complaint, raised previously by the Special Political Committee.

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## Cypriot Killed As Islanders Demonstrate for 'Enosis'

## UK, Greece Disagree Over Interpretation

NEW YORK, Saturday. — The U.N. General Assembly yesterday upheld the Political Committee's decision of late Wednesday night "not to consider further" Greece's request that the principle of self-determination be applied to the population of Cyprus.

The vote on the recommendation was 10 in favour to none against, with eight abstentions. The British and Greek delegates—in statements to the press after the vote—disagreed, however, over the meaning of the decision, though both of them supported the resolution. It states that the Assembly "considers that, for the time being, it does not appear appropriate to adopt a resolution on the question of Cyprus, decided not to consider further the item."

Mr. Anthony Nutting, the chief British delegate, told newsmen that the vote "demonstrated beyond argument" that the U.N. considers further discussion on Cyprus inappropriate and likely to have "harmful results on the friendly relations between the nations of the free world."

At the same time at a different press conference, Mr. Alexis Kyrkou, the chief Greek delegate, said that El Salvador, sponsor of the clause which inserted the phrase "for the time being" in the resolution, explained before the vote that it meant to qualify what otherwise would be a simple postponement of the case. Mr. Kyrkou said that since Britain in effect acknowledges the correctness of the interpretation.

Within a few minutes, the girls streamed out to the boys shouting "enosis." Then the crowd chanted "Britain get out."

## Students Battle Police in Nicosia

By IRIS K. RUSSELL.  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent.  
NICOSIA, Saturday. — Civilian and military police fought battles with hundreds of demonstrating students and youths in the heart of the island's capital, Nicosia, wearing riot shields, steel helmets and carrying batons. The rioters used stones, bricks and iron-made bottles as weapons which they hurled indiscriminately at show windows, standing cars, and passers-by.

Angry shouts of "Britons get out" and "Down with America" were echoed through the town. When the battle of stones and batons became too much for the police, tear gas bombs were thrown which sent crowds of demonstrators and onlookers running off down sidewalks, wiping watery eyes.

Despite the gas, the demonstrators returned and resumed their stone and bottle throwing until 3 o'clock just outside the Venetian walls of Nicosia was littered with broken glass. Among the premises wrecked were the Government Tourist Information Office.

## Hammarskjöld Flying To Peking

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Communist China yesterday told the U.N. Secretary-General, that he will be welcome in Peking, and may be asked to discuss the case of 11 American airmen jailed as spies.

The Secretary-General had called Mr. Chou suggesting a visit to Peking after Christmas.

China also sent an accompanying cable to the U.N. describing last Friday's resolution condemning the imprisonment of the airmen as "absurd."

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## ASIA HAS NEW ROLE IN WORLD — TITO

NEW DELHI, Saturday (Reuter). — President Tito of Yugoslavia stated here today that the emergence of India and other independent Asian nations had made Asia assume "an entirely new role" in international affairs.

## BOY STILL MISSING

ACRE, Saturday. — Amram Gori, the 15-year-old boy missing since Thursday morning when he jumped from a drifting boat to swim ashore, near here, had still not been found by tonight. Police on foot and horseback continued the search along the shore from Acre to Rosh Haikra all day yesterday and today.

## U.N. Decision Arouses Wrath

LIMASSOL, Saturday. — British troops opened fire today in Limassol, second largest city in Cyprus, killing one person, as police lost control of demonstrations that swept the British island colony. The entire island was in the throes of a 24-hour strike called in protest against this week's U.N. decision to shelve Greece's demand that the British colony should be granted the right of self-determination.

## Schoolboys Help Girls Leave Classrooms

NICOSIA, Saturday (Reuter). — Nearly 1,000 Greek school boys helped several hundred girls to escape from their classrooms into the streets against their teachers' wishes. Traffic was halted as the boys shouted "come out" to the girls. The girls shouted to the crowds under the windows: "We want to come out, but they won't let us." A scribbled note thrown to the boys below read "help us."

Police cars were looted by the students, who tried to break down a door to enable the girls to get out. Some of the boys climbed a wall at the back of the building and opened the massive door from the inside.

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## Six Greek Students Hurt in Riots

ATHENS, Saturday (Reuter). — Six students demonstrating in favour of the union of Cyprus with Greece were injured in clashes with police here today, and 20 were arrested for defying the official ban on demonstrations. Police toured the city disbanding groups of demonstrators.

The Students Union in Athens called the strike in protest against the U.N. resolution on Cyprus.

Premier Papagos expressed "deepest regret" yesterday to the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Cavendish Cannon, for Thursday's anti-American demonstrations over the Cyprus issue.

Greek authorities have ordered the immediate repair of American and British offices damaged during Thursday's riots in Athens. The damage is estimated at \$400.

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The Secretary-General had called Mr. Chou suggesting a visit to Peking after Christmas.

China also sent an accompanying cable to the U.N. describing last Friday's resolution condemning the imprisonment of the airmen as "absurd."

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Founded as The Palestine Post in 1932. Published daily, except on Saturdays, in Jerusalem by The Palestine Post Limited, Registered at the G.P.O.

Founder and Editor: GERSHON AGNON  
Managing Editor: TED R. LUBIN

Editorial Office and Management: JERUSALEM, 4 Rehov Hayarkon, P.O.B. 81, Tel. 4233 (4 lines)  
Tel. AVIV Bureau: 52 Nahariyeh, P.O.B. 1135, Tel. 231/2  
Tel. HAIFA Bureau: 1 Rehov Hayarkon, P.O.B. 24, Tel. 424 (3 lines)  
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Inland IL 22.000, Foreign IL 34.000 per year.

Sunday, December 16, 1954  
Kister 24, 5715 - Sabat, Teat 14, 1954

## THE decision of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations again to raise the question of the Bat-Galim at the Security Council is the only action possible in the present circumstances in view of the fact that nearly two weeks have passed since the United Nations tribunal adjourned the debate on the question in the hope that Egypt would take action to release the vessel and its crew.

It will be recalled that on the eve of the last Security Council discussion of the subject, Egypt said she was prepared to release the crew of the Bat Galim and its cargo. At the time Israel made it clear that this did not go far enough. The question was one of principle, namely that of freedom of passage for Israel vessels through the Suez Canal. Unless the Egyptians were prepared to allow the ship to proceed peacefully on the voyage through the Canal to Haifa then the question was still unresolved.

The main reason for the Security Council's delay was the assumption that Egypt would now carry out at least the terms of her limited offer. At the same time it was felt that pressure might be brought to bear upon Egypt to persuade her to set up to her international obligations. Israel, for her part, seemed if anything to have leaned over backwards to help the Western powers to seek a solution with Egypt which would not embarrass their relations with that country and which might enable her to retreat from a completely untenable position without loss of face. It now becomes obvious that the Western powers do not feel enthusiastic about exerting pressure upon Egypt at this present juncture.

On the other hand, the West has made it plain that it wishes freedom of passage to be speedily and positively restored. At the last meeting of the Security Council, on December 7, it was Sir Pierson Dixon of Britain who answered all Egypt's specious arguments about her alleged right to interfere with Israel's shipping by reaffirming Britain's adherence to the principles of the 1951 resolution of the Security Council which called upon Egypt, in very clear terms, to allow Israel freedom of transit through the Canal.

It is not difficult to understand the hesitations of the West since their dealings with Egypt at the present time are precarious in any which the unhappy junta which has been gravely shaken in recent weeks, and its future outlook is none too bright. It is faced with the bitter opposition of the Moslem Brotherhood and can hardly wish to add fuel to the flames of the propaganda of that reactionary body by showing too great a partiality for the West. The West has made a practice of supporting the regime of the day in Egypt for fear of worse to come, and will not care to undermine Nasser's shaky position still further.

But Israel can hardly be expected to accept discrimination indefinitely in the matter of the carrying out of clear obligations under the Armistice Agreements. If Egypt refuses to fulfil her duties under that pact, there must come a time when the whole truce-observance structure here will be in danger of complete collapse.

The next session of the Security Council will have to take a decision and if there is further temporization with the anarchical forces in this area it is not difficult to foresee that Israel may consider herself released from some of the obligations imposed by M.A.C. decisions.

## Germans Claim 'Guns And More Butter Too'

By SEBASTIAN HAFNER

BERLIN (OFNS).—THE West German Budget for 1955-1956, presented to the Bundestag, provides 9,000m. D-Marks (about 1.3,000m. for defence). Both the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, presenting the budget on behalf of the Finance Minister, Herr Schaeffer, who is ill, and the speakers of the Government parties, stressed that this figure represented the utmost limit of West Germany's capacity to pay for defence.

On the other hand, it is generally known in Bonn — though not yet made public — that the financial experts of West Germany's embryonic War Office have estimated that 65,000m. D-Marks is the minimum cost of equipping 12 divisions of the kind stipulated in the West European defence treaties in three years. If this figure is correct, it would require an average annual Army budget of more than 21,000m. D-Marks for the first three years of rearmament — namely two-and-a-half times as much as the Ministry of Finance is willing and able to allocate for defence as a whole.

While it is impossible to check the calculations of the German Defence Ministry, comparisons with British and French military budget figures suggest that they cannot be far off, while the official budget figure of 9,000m. D-Marks seems, in the light of British and French experience for comparable forces, wholly unrealistic. The Social Democratic deputy, Wilhelm Pieck, who is a well-informed politician — even said in a speech some days ago that the total defence cost (Army, Navy and Air Force as well as supply and civil defence) would come to about 100,000m. D-Marks for the first three years.

**Government Challenged**  
In the preliminary budget debate, Social Democratic speakers challenged the Government to confirm or deny this figure, but only elicited the reply that the figures for investment are official figures. It is known in Bonn that the question of this great gap between the official and the realistic figures is a matter of great concern.

## Plan to Bridge Messina Straits

By a Special Correspondent

ONE of the most familiar sights of the Mediterranean to Israelis who have sailed to Europe, the Straits of Messina, will soon be radically changed by a Jewish engineer, Dr. David Steinman of New York, one of the world's most famous bridge designers.

Thousands of projects for a bridge to span the Straits have been submitted over the past five centuries, and all have been rejected as impractical. Treacherous gales, reefs and currents, which gained notoriety even in Homer's days under the name of Scylla and Charybdis, defied engineers.

Last July Dr. Steinman succeeded in designing a three-kilometre bridge which was judged so practical that the Messina Straits Bridge Corporation was formed to finance its construction, and a definite date for opening it to traffic has already been announced — June 15, 1956.

The Corporation is constructing a power line across the straits as well. Also designed by Dr. Steinman, it will rest on two most impressive 25-metre towers, which will be completed in a few months. Two super-heavy cables will carry over one million kilowatt-hours a day from Italy to Sicily, enabling the island to develop heavy industries.

The bridge will consist of two levels, for road and railway traffic, and will rest on giant pillars for the first 800 metres or so off each shore. The 1500-metre suspension span between them, longest in the world, will be high enough to allow the tallest ships to pass. The estimated cost of the bridge is \$150m., to be covered by 30-year bonds sold internationally. The income from the bridge tolls is expected to amortize the entire sum within 25 years, and after that the company expect a net income of six to seven million dollars annually from the bridge.

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## MUSICAL DIARY

THE Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's Fourth Subscription Concert at the Edison on Wednesday presented an orchestra in top form under that superior conductor, Sergiu Celibidache, whose stage appearance has much to do with the impression that he makes upon his audience.

Weber's overture to "Der Freischutz" made for a dramatic opening, but the best was rigid, and we missed a softer feeling in the lyrical passages, so well remembered from Bruno Walter's conception.

Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings is an eclectic elegy, puzzlingly archaic in view of the fact that it was written back in 1938. Marked by a marvellous cantabile grace, the performance brought out the best in this piece.

It was reported (though not officially confirmed) after Dr. Adenauer's return that he had received a promise of \$50,000m. worth of American aid in arms and cash for the three-year rearmament plan. It is also widely anticipated that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would will assist, despite German protests, on an increase in the German defence budget from the present \$5,000m. to about \$12,000m. D-Marks annually.

All this, if it materialized, would still leave more than one-third of the Army cost alone, and probably more than half of the total rearmament cost, uncovered. How this gap is to be closed no one in the country seems prepared to suggest. The only possibilities appear either to draw out the rearmament period from the now-planned three to five or six years, or else to resort to the financial methods employed by Dr. Schacht in the 1930's, which amounted to concealed inflation.

## No Economic Problem

In the meantime, Professor Erhard, Minister of Economics, continues to proclaim in speeches up and down the country that rearmament will provide no economic and financial problem at all, and to popularize the slogan: "Guns and more butter too!" He argues by accepting the annual defence budget of 9,000m. D-Marks at its face value, deducting the occupation costs of 6,000m. D-Marks, and comparing the difference of 3,000m. D-Marks with an annual rise of the national income of about 10,000m. D-Marks. But this argument does not take into account that the present defence budget has little relation to the real cost of the modern equipment of the stipulated West German armed forces, and that it may not be possible to maintain the present constant rise in the national income if the resources now available for investment are partly or wholly claimed by arms production.

## Airing of Complaints

There is a good deal to be said in a way, for this form of Knesset anarchy in homeopathic doses. In most cases the motions are tabled by members of the opposition, and are presented privately because they touch on subjects which the coalition parties have not the slightest intention of allowing to be debated in full, and are in the end automatically struck off at the request of the Minister replying for the Government. In fact, most of the motions are simply opposition complaints that are the better for being aired.

On occasion they are useful and well come, as in the case of Mr. Meir Wilner's motion on Manda village, on Wednesday, which gave the Minister of Agriculture an opportunity of explaining the background of this small sad struggle to the Knesset members. Probably many consciences were relieved to know both that the Arab villagers who attacked surveyors and with campaign

## Readers' Letters

HERONS

Editor, The Jerusalem Post  
Sir, I should be grateful if you would publish the following appeal to bird lovers in the Northern District.  
On a certain cliff off the coast

Santa Cecilia in Rome, over 500 tape-recorded ancient Jewish folk songs and liturgical melodies. The recordings are now on their way to Israel, where it is hoped that musical institutions will accord it the same care as the Italian and UNESCO committees who participated in the project. These melodies may open new vistas on the origins of Jewish music, for hitherto never recorded very old tunes have been preserved in Italy.

**In Haifa**  
The annual series of annotated, fortnightly concerts held every other Friday afternoon at Haifa's Beit Pevaner, for young people between the ages of six and 14, will begin on January 7, 1955. They are entitled "The Music of Past Generations" and are sponsored by the Cultural Department of the Municipality.

**Problems of Communism**  
November-December Issue  
PROBLEMS OF COMMUNISM is a bi-monthly publication. Its purpose is to make readily available significant background information and documentary material on the theoretical and political aspects of world communism today, with particular emphasis on the policies and aims of the Soviet Union and Communist China.

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**Jewish Italian Folk Music**  
Dr. Leo Levi has returned from Italy, where, with the aid of the Italian radio, he has collected for the National Centre of Folk Music Studies on behalf of the Accademia Nazionale dei

## A GENERAL AMNESTY

for irregularities regarding Military Service in Argentina has been proclaimed.  
Any citizen whom this may concern should present himself to this office during the next three months.

## ARGENTINE CONSULATE

68 Rehov Hayarkon, Tel Aviv.

## Parliament at Work

# DEBATES BEFORE THE DEBATE

By LEA BEN-DOR

IN suggesting that one of the day's 12 motions for debate should be struck off the agenda, a speaker in the Knesset last Wednesday observed that it was curious that the very people who claimed to take a moderate view in the matter of the much-debated children's club near Mesh Shearim and the Sabbath demonstrations should seek a general debate, which would be certain to exacerbate feeling on this sensitive subject, now just when a degree of calm has been achieved.

On this occasion, the Knesset had spent about three and a half hours hearing a round dozen motions presented by individual members. No fewer than five of these were concerned with the Jerusalem over religious observance and non-observance, and with the statements by two members, the Minister's reply and the voting, the subject: prohibition of religious observance. Members of five different parties aired their opinions and, in fact, the procedure had all the appearance of a debate with several limited speaking times, even though the conclusion finally arrived at was simply that the Knesset did not desire to debate this subject.

There is a certain contradiction of terms in this technical opportunity for Knesset members to do what the Knesset as a whole does not wish done. For this reason, occasionally been suggested that the time limit for presenting a motion for debate should be cut down still further from the present 15 minutes, into which a determined and rapid speaker can squeeze many of the elements of a major speech. In any case the time limit cannot be strictly enforced, either if the speaker politely asks for another minute to finish his train of thought, or rudely goes on without asking permission.

## Range of Medals

Reminding his listeners that on the military plane Israel could outstrip its neighbours only in the quality of its manpower, Mr. Pinhas Lavon, the Minister of Defence, made his plea for the establishment of a series of medals. These are to be graduated according to the circumstances and the significance of the action, and will range from the will Knit for the Hero of the Army, the medals for Daring and for Valour, down to a Distinguished Service medal, with campaign

Police in a hopeless fight were not due to be moved suddenly and frighteningly because of the planned reservoir, and that every possible care had been taken to explain the position to them, to make preparations in time for proper compensation should it become unavoidable to move them in the future. There was a general feeling that if the Communist Party had not created this opportunity, the Government could have done nothing else than make a statement on its own.

Another advantage of this form of complaint is that the complainant is forced by the place and the audience to be both more accurate and more moderate than he might elsewhere, and his party's press bound to present this picture to its readers rather than the much more highly coloured one that might be painted otherwise.

This consideration applies, for instance, to Dr. Shnei's account of the police steps against the (illegal) Communist demonstration in Haifa last Sunday. This report was notable largely for the uncommon complaint that the demonstration for which the organizers had as a matter of principle not requested a licence — had been allowed to circulate for an hour and a half, carrying its banners with the names of the German concentration camps at which the broken up by the Police, when the speeches were about to begin at the rallying-point. Dr. Shnei's protest, which contained more emotion than actual distortion, appears fully in "Kol Ha'am," and it is as nearly truthful and dispassionate an account of the proceedings as that paper's readership is likely to receive.

Mr. Raphael too, the Hapoel Ha-mizrahi defender of the Sabbath and "moralists" protagonists in Jerusalem, conveyed a general impression of police persecution of the orthodox. But, given under the close scrutiny of the defenders, both the chief and its supporters, and of the Police Minister, his account of the incidents was very far removed from the "pogrom" version that has appeared in the press, and the fantastic and libellous and totally untrue accusations published on hoardings in Jerusalem and, it is learned, in London also.

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As it stands, the bill contains the strange proviso that the medal shall be taken away again if its possessor commits a disgraceful crime. It is of course quite possible that a man who showed bravery in battle will find opportunity for recklessness in civilian life, but it is hardly a contingency that need be provided against with such pessimism. Even if the hero turns robber his one shining deed remains and need not be officially wiped out. There is no suggestion, after all, of valuable civil privileges for soldiers who earn medals, as is the practice in the Soviet Union.

The suggestion of Mr. Yaacov Rittin (M.p.m.) that the medals be associated with traditional Jewish heroes, rather than receive the newly created names proposed by the Defence Minister is likely to receive support. There will be support, similarly, for the series of speakers who thought that if there were medals for possible future heroes, there should be recognition of the undoubted heroes of the past, at least of the recent past, for which the struggle against Hitler and for the establishment of the State. Despite a mounting uneasiness it was difficult to disagree with any of them, and it remained for Mr. Israel Day Yehuda, who always fears the worst, to put into words the feeling that if there are too many medals they will lose their value and distinction.

COMMENTING on Egyptian "Nazi methods" "Habecker" (General Zionist) says that the defendants in the Cairo trial have already "admitted" that they are Zionists, which according to Egyptian law is a most serious crime in itself. But this was not thought enough and the accused were tortured until they also admitted "spying" for Israel. All this proves that the situation of the Jewish communities in the Arab countries is most precarious.

A correspondent in "Davar" (Histadrut) reports that the present trial has been worked out by a group of German Nazis who have been employed for some time by the Egyptian Government and who have established a special "Jewish department" not unlike institutions of the same name in the countries of Nazi-occupied Europe during World War Two.

Messrs. I. Gallil in "Lamerhav" (Abud Avoda) and M. Begin in "Herut" demand a more active policy towards Egypt and Syria. M. Begin says that the "call for moderation," directed by the Western statesmen to Mr. Shneur, who is himself the exponent of a most moderate line, may have fatal consequences because it will be followed by more such demands: "He who does not insist on the rights of his people will be pressed to retreat ever more."

I. Gallil welcomes the establishment of a public committee in defence of the Egyptian Jews and says that though Israel will have to act in a responsible way, it will have to act with courage too, and "responsibility" must not be a fig leaf for fatal inaction.

"Davar" publishes a special supplement (including articles by Messrs. D. Ben Gurion and I. Ben-Zvi) on the occasion of the jubilee of the Second Aliya, while both "Al Hamishmar" and "Lamerhav" dedicate a special supplement to the memory of the late Socialist Zionist ideologist Ben Borochov.

A correspondent in "Kol Ha'am" (Communist) says that though it did not expect Mr. Haim Shurer of "Davar" (who was in the Soviet Union for 40 days) to see and report the things he should have seen, it did not assume either that he would spread "anti-Soviet lies" after his visit. The writer adds that though Shurer was in the Moscow synagogue and he himself was not, it must quite obviously be an anti-Soviet lie that Shurer saw many beggars, cripples and blind in front of the synagogue.

"Ha'aretz" (non-party) commenting on the incidents in Manda village, says that the authorities should have made concrete proposals for alternative settlement to the villagers. If these should have rejected them, they could indeed not be helped, but it seems that they were only given general promises, and the Government cannot therefore be absolved altogether from responsibility for the incidents.

"Al Hamishmar" (M.p.m.) deals with the Minister of Labour's employment survey and says that though Israel will have to act in a responsible way, it will have to act with courage too, and "responsibility" must not be a fig leaf for fatal inaction.

**AT THE CINEMA**  
WE have now seen an almost completely new programme in Haifa. The feature, "The Command" (May, Haifa), is a typical Technicolor Western, preceded by a short, a series of trailers of historical pageants, musicals, straight comedies etc. (in the trailer short) the slaves labouring tier upon tier as far as the eye can see. Interiors appear to be more cramped, unless, again, there is a far vista of corridor.

In close-ups one concentrates more on the details of the features and group close-ups.

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